

SHAGBARK HICKORY

Carya ovata (Mill.) K. Koch.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Carolina hickory, Scalybark hickory, Shellbark hickory.

FORM: 60-90 feet tall, diameter of trunk 2-3 feet, may reach height of 120 feet; in the open the bole forks into stout ascending limbs, crown irregular and open; in the forest bole columnar, often free of branches 50-60 feet, bearing a narrow crown.

BARK: On old trunks, shaggy, light gray, 3/4-1 inch thick, separating into rough strips or plates which are loose at both ends and give the trunk a shaggy appearance.

TWIGS: At first coated with pale glandular pubescence, sometimes smooth and glossy, finally dark reddish-brown and ultimately gray.

LEAVES: Alternate, 8-14 inches long, compound with 5-7 leaflets that are 4-5 inches long, usually acuminate at the apex, inequilateral at the base, margin serrate, except near the base, dark yellowish-green and glabrous above, pale, glabrous or puberulous below.

FLOWERS: Appear when leaves about half developed; monocious; staminate hairy, arranged in aments clustered in threes, 4-6 inches long; pistillate rusty, wooly, arranged 2-5 in large spikes.

FRUIT: Subglobose to obovate, 1-2 1/2 inches long, 4-channeled from apex to the base, glabrous or pilose; nut white, thin-shelled, usually oblong, very variable in form, with sweet kernel.

WINTER BUDS: Terminal bud ovate, blunt-pointed, 2/5-4/5 inch long, usually covered by about 10 bud scales, the 3-4 outer scales dark brown, sharp-pointed, apex may terminate in a sharp point, often hairy, especially along the margin.

WOOD: Very strong, heavy, hard, tough, elastic, close and usually straight-grained.

USES: Tool handles, rough lumber, railroad ties, fuel, barbeque smoke. Historical uses: Wheel spokes.

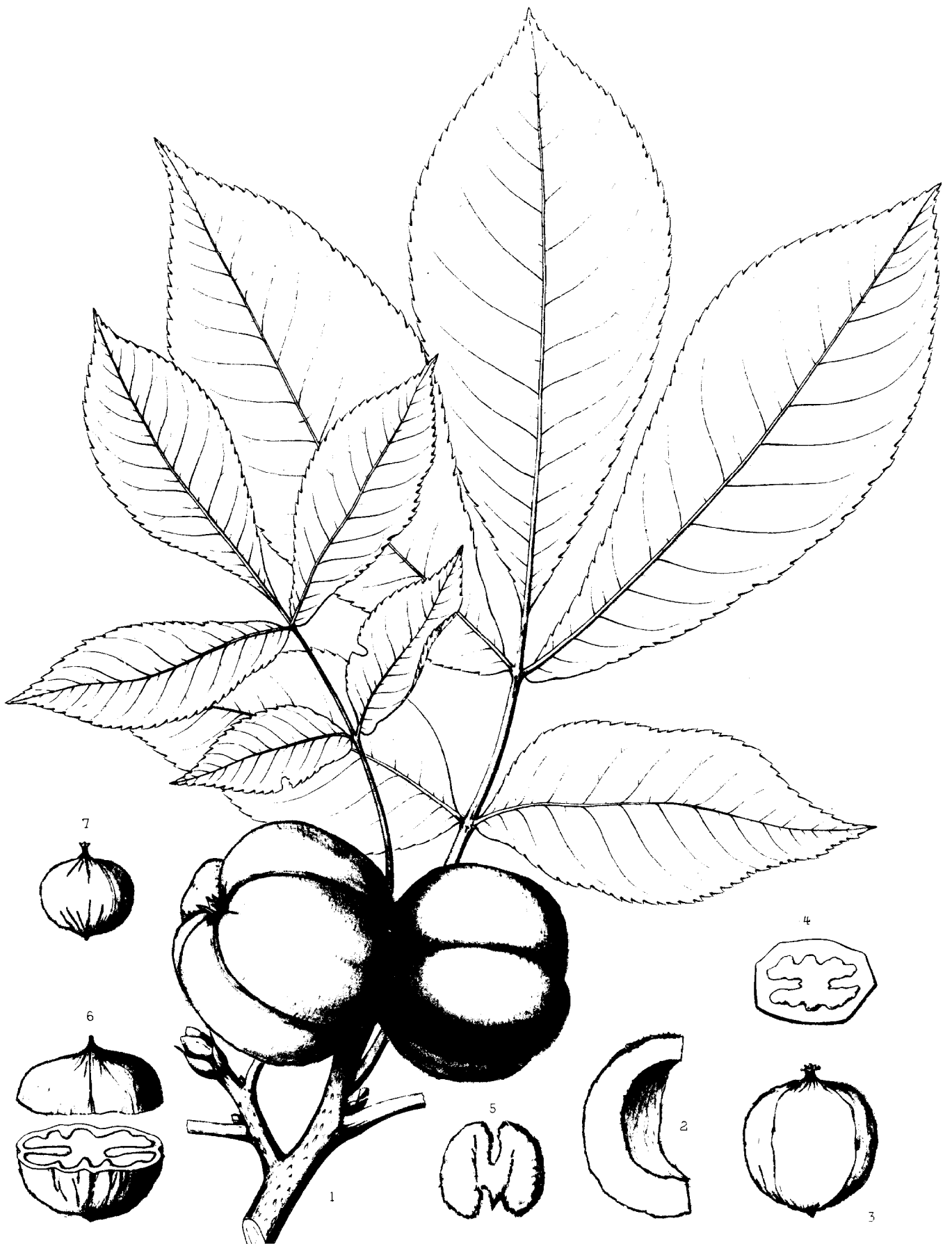
HABITAT: Prefers deep moist soil, along streams and moist hillsides.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Shaggy bark; apex of the 3-4 outer bud scales often terminate in a short point; nuts usually white; common hickory nut of commerce.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Limestone, Madison, Lawrence, Marion, Chilton, and Montgomery Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruiting branch | 5. An inversed cotyledon |
| 2. A valve of the fruit | 6. A thin shelled nut cut transversely |
| 3. A nut | 7. A nut |
| 4. Cross section of a nut through the middle | |



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